

January 23, 2002

The Honorable Christine Gregoire  
Attorney General of the State of Washington  
PO Box 40100  
Olympia WA 98504-0100

Dear General Gregoire:

On November 28, 2001, your office received two citizen action letters from Mr. Robert Edelman alleging that Rick Luther, Christopher Hurst and Kevin Esping, as well as the Black Diamond Citizens for Political Responsibility, violated the Public Disclosure Law by sponsoring false political advertisements against Barry Kombol, a candidate for Black Diamond mayor. Your office forwarded these letters to the Public Disclosure Commission for investigation.

At the Commission's meeting on January 22, 2002, the PDC staff reported the results of its investigation. A copy of that report is enclosed. The investigation revealed insufficient evidence to prove that the advertisements contained false statements of material fact or were undertaken with actual malice.

The Commission believes that no further action is warranted on either complaint.

If we can be of assistance, please contact me by e-mail at [vrippie@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:vrippie@pdc.wa.gov) or by phone at 586-4838.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rippie  
Executive Director

C: Senior Assistant Attorney General Linda Dalton  
Assistant Attorney General Nancy Krier